

# **The Path to Sediment Risk Management**

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# **Risk management**

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**Which / whose values to protect?**

**Are these values at risk ?**

**Is risk acceptable?**

**If not, what action to take?**

# Values?

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**Public health and the environment**

**Problem formulation is probably most important task**

**Demands transparency and stakeholder involvement**

**Interpretation & decision framework ( analysis plan ) laid out in advance**

# At risk?

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**Ideally, risk assessment is an honest attempt to find a rational basis for decisions, by analyzing available scientific evidence**

## **Risk estimate**

**Transparency & stakeholder involvement**

**Assumptions  $\neq$  Conclusions**

**Beyond a worst-case analysis**

**Address uncertainty without paralysis**

**Allow for innovation in science & methods**

**Integrate HH & Eco, include ESA, anticipate NRD**

# Acceptable?

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**Risk assessment  $\neq$  risk management**

**Functional, not communication, separation**

**Only risk managers can decide what risk is acceptable**

**Risk-based management requires trust and on-going trust-promoting actions**

**Trust and acceptance are linked**

# Action?

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**science alone can never be an adequate basis for a risk decision. Risk decisions are, ultimately, public policy choices...**

**Risk estimate a decision factor but not the only factor**

**Legal, Political, Regulatory, Technical,  
Commercial / Economic, Community**

**Aim at management that is proportional to the risk involved**